

## POST SHORTS

### Recycling schedule



The recycling scheduled pickup for Wednesday, April 14, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

### Easter Sunrise at AA

Easter Sunrise Service will be held 7 a.m. at Fanshaw Field in the Aberdeen Area. For more information, call the chapel at 410-278-4333.

### Holiday closures

The APG/Edgewood Cleaners and Barbershop will be closed on Easter Sunday.

### Blue Cross/Blue Shield service visit

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has made arrangements for a claims representative from Blue Cross/Blue Shield to visit Aberdeen Proving Ground April 13 to discuss claim problems and plan coverage. No appointment is necessary.

The representative will be available in the Aberdeen Area 9 to 11:30 a.m. in building 305, room 236, and in the Edgewood Area, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in building E-4811, seminar area of the Conference Center.

For more information, contact Teri Wright, 410-278-4331, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

### DOIM VI holds open house

The Visual Information Services Division of the garrison's Directorate of Information Management will host an Open House 1 to 4 p.m. daily, April 19 through 23, in building 4725 Bomb Loop in the Aberdeen Area.

The division's unique and wide-ranging visual information capabilities to include multi-media presentations, visual information solutions, photography and audiovisual, cradle-to-grave custom exhibit design and production, model making and graphics design and production will be showcased.

For more information, call 410-306-4700.

### Otto Road closure rescheduled

Because of adverse construction conditions, the work previously scheduled to occur April 3 and 4 has been rescheduled to start

See SHORTS, page 5

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

### Page 2

Deployment News

### Page 6

Health

### Page 7

Army focus area:  
Army Aviation

### Page 8

APG Forum

### Page 13

MWR

### Page 14

Legally speaking

### Page 15

Veterans' Voices

### Page 16

ICW wrestlers rumble at APG

# Parade heralds Month of the Child



Photo by CINDY SELCHERT

Child Care Provider Marsha Jackson marches with, from left, Devon Churchill, Tyiwon Howard, Aubrey Hill, Tyler Sipe, Sarah Cole and Brittany Britton during the "Our Children Are Our Future" Parade April 2 at the Aberdeen Area Child Development Center.

Laura Reich  
ACS

For many, the rainy, wet and dreary April 2 would have been discouraging, but the children of the Aberdeen Child Development Center were in high gear to kick-off April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Child with the "Our Children Are Our Future" parade.

The weather prevented the festivity from taking place outdoors but the mood was quite different inside the center.

The children of the CDC enjoyed marching around inside the facility, showing off the banners and sun visors they had created.

"This is great, and I love McGruff," said Hannah Hartstock, 2, whose mother, Tina, is a contractor working on post.

The children worked all week preparing their headdresses for the parade.

"The message that children are our future and are very special was conveyed this whole week as the center prepared for the parade," said Helen Miller, Aberdeen Area CDC training specialist. "Creating the artwork for the parade was a wonderful learning experience for the children."

The sun visors, instruments and banners displayed the children's unique talent for color and flare.

After the parade of colors, streamers, and noisemakers through the center, the children paused to visit with McGruff, the Crime Dog, and sang songs. McGruff handed out D.A.R.E. stickers, rulers, and pencils about drug abuse resistance education.

The "Proud to be a Military Kid" coloring books were given to the children by the Army Community Service staff, celebrating the Month of the Child.

Although the bulk of the action took place indoors due to the

See CHILD, page 3

# Resources mobilized to assist those affected by RIFs

Yvonne Johnson  
APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison commander and the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center are encouraging those affected by the upcoming Reduction in Force to take advantage of several programs geared toward easing the transition process during this stressful period.

Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, announced the approval of an additional Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay open window for garrison employees during a workforce briefing at the Edgewood Area Recreation Center March 31.

Those with targeted series and grades, as well as those not targeted had until April 2 to submit their VERA/VSIP applications.

Mark said the purpose of the additional window was to encourage voluntary separations and to reduce the number of involuntary separations.

"The Garrison may not be able to offer another open window any time soon," Mark said, adding that

other APG organizations are aggressively hiring, and she has asked them to consider Garrison employees first.

Kim Hart, CPAC human resources specialist, said that Reduction in Force notices would be issued no earlier than April 26 with an effective date of July 10.

In addition, counselors from the Department of Defense Civilian Assistance Re-Employment program, or CARE, will be on hand April 28 and 29 to meet with CPAC and Civilian Personnel Operations Center RIF counselors to speed up the registration process for those eligible for the Priority Placement Program.

"DoD CARE officers manage the placement program whenever RIF notices are issued," Hart said. "Counselors will brief the workforce on entitlements and assist them as they prepare for placement."

She added that only those with separation or change-in-grade notices are eligible for priority placement. Those being reassigned are not eligible.

"Those meeting with CARE counselors must provide resumes," Hart added.

The CPAC will hold a briefing for those affected

by the VERA/VSIP at the EA Recreation Center, April 27, and counseling will be held April 28 and 29.

Anyone who is issued a RIF or a notice that their position is being downgraded will be scheduled for an appointment.

Hart said that the resources standing by to assist employees include the Army Community Service's Employment Readiness Program, the Army Substance Abuse Program's Employee Assistance Program, and the Department of Labor's Transition Assistance Program.

"The ACS computer lab has Internet services and resume writing assistance. It maintains a job data base and offers an Employment Showcase, which assists applicants in preparing resumes. Also, ASAP offers valuable stress management workshops," Hart said, adding that the programs will partner with the Department of Labor Transition Assistance Program to better serve those in need of their services during this time.

"We strongly encourage employees to take advantage of these resources. The services also are open to

See RIF, page 12

# APG schedules Annual Security Awareness Training

DLES

The APG Intelligence Division, Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security will present the Annual Security Awareness Training Program 8 and 10 a.m. at the Post Theater, building 3245, and at the Edgewood Area Conference Center, building E-4810, over a 14-week period to ensure everyone will have the opportunity to receive the training.

Seating is limited, particularly in the Edgewood Area since the Conference Center can only seat 220 people.

Attendance is limited to government

and contractor personnel and training is classified "For Official Use Only." Family members are not permitted at these briefings.

At the conclusion of the training session, EAP Forms 1198, Security Awareness Attendance Forms, will be distributed to verify attendance.

**Aberdeen Area Post Theater, building 3245, 8 and 10 a.m.**

Tuesday, June 1  
Wednesday, June 9  
Wednesday, June 30  
Tuesday, July 13  
Wednesday, July 14

Wednesday, July 21  
Thursday, July 29

**Edgewood Area Conference Center, building E-4810, 8 and 10 a.m.**

Tuesday, June 8  
Thursday, June 10  
Wednesday, June 16  
Thursday, June 17  
Tuesday, June 29  
Tuesday, July 6  
Wednesday, July 7  
Thursday, July 15  
Tuesday, July 20  
Wednesday, July 28

Thursday, Aug. 5  
Tuesday, Aug. 10

Wednesday, Aug. 18  
Wednesday, Aug. 25  
Thursday, Aug. 26  
Wednesday, Sept. 1  
Thursday, Sept. 2

Attendees are encouraged to arrive 10 minutes early, as no one will be admitted once the briefing has begun.

For more information on the training, call Pete Leon Guerrero, 410-278-5348/7339/3187.

# Purchase Request Submission schedule set

ACA

The Army Contracting Agency Aberdeen Proving Ground Directorate of Contracting has established its Fiscal Year 2004 Cutoff Dates for Submission of Purchase Requests.

Early customer support in identifying and submitting purchase requests by or before the dates shown below greatly enhances the ability of the APG Directorate of Contracting to meet customer needs.

Early planning and coordination remain the keys to a successful year-end.

Organizations are advised to submit their year-end requirements as early as is reasonable to minimize the possibility of funds going unobligated at year end.

The following schedule has been established for the submission of purchase requests for FY 2004 and maintenance for FY 2005:

- Noncommercial items over \$100,000 - July 1\*
- Noncommercial items between \$2,500 and \$100,000 - Aug. 1

- Commercial items between \$100,000 and \$5 million - July 1
- Commercial items under \$100,000 - Aug. 15
- Services over \$100,000 - July 1

- Delivery Orders and Task Orders under existing contracts - Aug. 1
- GSA schedule procurements - Aug. 1

- Short-of-Award over \$2,500 - June 15\*\*
- Maintenance for FY 2005 - July 1

(FY 05 Contract Modifications and Options for Existing Maintenance Contracts)

- There may be instances where this date may not be adequate for complex actions. It is therefore required that these actions be coordinated with the branch chief prior to this date.

\*\*Customers submitting "short-of-award" purchase requests, especially for services requirements, must seriously consider whether funding will materialize. A substantial amount of effort is expended to prepare these

pending actions and they must be prioritized after purchase requests that are funded and purchase requests that are subject to the availability of funds.

The above lead times can be affected by various factors, a few of which include: competition requirements, to include fair opportunity for services task orders over \$100,000 when using Federal Supply Schedules; obtaining sole, limited source or urgency approvals - the Justification and Approval process; the review process accomplished by the APG Small Business Advisor to ensure all socioeconomic programs will be appropriately addressed; front-end purchase request entry into PD2, and PD2. (PD2 is the DoD contracting automated system used at Aberdeen.)

Any request received after the scheduled dates will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will require approval by the Chief of the Contracting Division.

The APG DOC will do as much as possible to assist customers in satisfying their

requirements after the cut-off dates. However, the directorate has a limited capability to process late requirements.

Budgetary constraints may mean that customer-funded overtime may be the only method to provide the Directorate with additional flexibility to accept requirements after the established dates.

Refer questions to:

Joyce Roberts, Contracting Division - joyce.roberts@us-army.mil, 410-278-0869

Facilities Branch: repair, alteration, construction, sale and removal of excess real property, services for base operations functions (including, but not limited to, utilities privatization, custodial, refuse, underground utilities locating, etc.), equipment-in-place, and facilities.

Martha Mitchem - martha.mitchem@us.army.mil, 410-278-2362

Services Branch: General and specialized services for mission support; equipment, ammunition; range testing of

See FUNDING, page 12

## Two days left—discount concert ticket sale ends tomorrow

The discount ticket sale for the Miller Lite Army Concert Tour featuring Montgomery Gentry with special guest, Blue County July 17 ends tomorrow.

Tickets can still be purchased for \$10 through Ticket Master, [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com), MWR Registration in building 3326, by calling 410-278-4907/4011, or in the Edgewood Area Fitness Center, building E-4210, 410-436-7134.

For more information, send an e-mail message to [MWR\\_Registration@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:MWR_Registration@usag.apg.army.mil) or visit the MWR Web Site at [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).

The concert will be held rain or shine 6:30 p.m. on Shine Sports Field.



# Deployment News

## TEU Soldiers, civilians recognized



Courtesy of TECHNICAL ESCORT UNIT  
*1st Sgt. Leroy G. Mundy, left, and Maj. Rodney T. Stein from the Technical Escort Unit unfurl a U.S. flag in Baghdad, Iraq.*

**Joni Platt**  
*TEU*

Seventeen were recognized for their outstanding service to our nation at an awards ceremony at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground this month.

Col. Timothy D. Madere, commander of the Army’s Guardian Brigade, presented medals including the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service, Army Commendation and Joint Service Commendation to brigade members deployed in support of the

Global War on Terrorism.

Madere expressed his gratitude to “this great group of folks.” “I want to thank each and every one of you for everything you do every day, and not only in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom,” he said.

The Soldiers from the Technical Escort Unit and Army Reserve Unit - Consequence Management served on chemical/biological disablement and elimination teams that supported the 75th Exploitation Task Force and Iraq Survey Group. These

men and women were recognized for their professionalism, technical expertise and outstanding performance during missions executed under combat conditions.

These teams included both active duty and reserve component Soldiers from the TEU’s companies A, B, C and D as well as the battalion headquarters. One Soldier was assigned to ARU-CM, a 99th Regional Readiness Command organization.

Lt. Col. Franz J. Amman, TEU battalion commander, thanked the awardees for their contributions.

“We do not do this often enough. The bottom line is that we thank you for your contribution not only for Operation Iraqi Freedom, but also for all the other Technical Escort Unit missions,” he said.

He also thanked the civilian workforce for their service acknowledging that they comprise 50 percent of his assets.

During this ceremony 1st Lt. Robert A. Busseau was promoted and two civilian guardians received length of service awards: Donald E. Brooke for 25 years of service and Connie G. Collins for 15 years of service. Col. Paul H. Dietrich, 464th Chemical Brigade commander, took this opportunity to specially recognize Capt. Christine Lohmann with a coin for her performance as the Team Leader for the Task Force Disablement/Elimination Team in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Six Bronze Stars were awarded during the ceremony.

The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the military of the United States after Dec. 6, 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Guardian Brigade organizations have been deploying teams in support of Central Command as well as other organizations since October 2001. About a dozen chemical/biological teams from the brigade have served in the Global War on Terrorism during that time.

The Guardian Brigade is an interim organization designed to achieve synergy of the U.S. Army Materiel Command’s unique, tried and proven, crisis response and consequence management organizations and to establish the future framework for the Army’s full-spectrum Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Enhanced High-yield Explosives Command.

Established in October 2003, the brigade continues to accomplish Department of Defense operations to counter the threat of weapons of mass destruction use in the homeland and abroad.

## Team honored for bringing Soldier issues from battlefield to lab

**Karen Jolley Drowen**  
*RDECOM Public Affairs Office*

Two Soldiers from the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command received the Bronze Star Award on Feb. 12 for their role in providing rapid solutions to challenges in Iraq.

Maj. Jorge Concepcion of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, and Sgt. 1st Class Edward Morales of the Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate, part of the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, traveled around Iraq from September to January, visiting numerous Army units to determine science and technology issues that would enhance Soldier performance and readiness.

They immediately reported these issues to RDECOM’s Field Assistance in Science and Technology headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Va., so resources from across RDECOM could focus on solutions. Among their projects were providing extra armor for High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles and countermeasures to

improvised explosive devices.

In presenting the awards, RDECOM Commander Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg noted that Concepcion and Morales “are part of the process of bringing back home as many of our Soldiers as possible.”

“War in any form is a dangerous business, and in the midst of combat, it’s very difficult to identify these issues,” he said. “But these teams go out and try to solve problems our young warfighters have.”

Both men, who live in Woodbridge, Va., brought their families to the ceremony. Doesburg spoke directly to those family members, noting, “You should be very proud of what your loved ones did. Most importantly, they worked to bring everyone home.”

Concepcion noted that during their four months in Iraq, they traveled freely, visiting with units, Soldiers and commanders.

“All we hope is that we made a difference during the time we were there,” he said.

Morales added that it was “good to get out there and talk to Soldiers.”

“The entire time there, we never saw a Soldier who had a bad attitude,” he said. “Meeting them face-to-face made it worthwhile.

“Those Soldiers are still there today,” he added, asking those present to remember the Soldiers deployed in their prayers, “and ask your neighbors to as well.”

Jim Gibson, FAST director, said the two Soldiers were part of FAST Team 3, part of a program that for two decades has sought to bring laboratories and research, development and engineering centers into closer contact with their customers — major Army commands throughout the world.

“Our teams are made up of volunteers, with diverse backgrounds,” he said, noting that other teams have included civilian employees as well as military personnel. “We try to mix up the skills. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, more than a dozen people have gone overseas on FAST Teams.”

Among the items to come out of these missions are the Armor Survivability Kits being installed now on high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicles in Iraq. Team 1 reported this issue last fall, beginning a fast-paced effort by personnel from the ARL in Maryland and the Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center in Michigan to develop an easy-to-install kit to protect Soldiers in HMMWVs from issues such as improvised explosive devices. Thousands of the Armor

Survivability Kits are being produced through the Army Depot System and shipped overseas.

The U.S. Army Materiel Command initiated FAST teams in 1985 to link AMC laboratories and research, development and engineering centers more directly with operational field commanders. Those labs and centers now are part of RDECOM, AMC’s newest major subordinate command, headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground. RDECOM’s mission is to take technology out of the laboratories and put it into the hands of warfighters as quickly as possible.

The FAST program provides a network between AMC and RDECOM and the Army in the field as well as other services; this network includes science advisors and quick reaction coordinators.

The program has tackled more than 900 projects, and has seen the introduction into the field of a number of its products. Some of these products have made major contributions in cost avoidance, improved capability, training and safety.

The Bronze Star Medal was created in 1944, to honor military personnel who distinguish themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States, in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force.



Photo by STAFF SGT. SCOTT MEINHARDT  
*Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, presents the Bronze Star Medal to Sgt. 1st Class Edward Morales, as Maj. Jorge Concepcion, who also won the award, and Jim Gibson, director of RDECOM’s Field Assistance in Science and Technology Program, look on. The two Soldiers went to Iraq under the FAST Program to identify science and technology issues that would enhance Soldier performance and readiness.*

# APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source.

Editorial content is prepared, edited and approved by the APG Public Affairs Office. The APG News is printed by Homestead Publishing Company, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with APG. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Homestead Publishing Company of the products or services advertised.

For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 2201, AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; send a fax to 410-278-2570; or send e-mail to editor@usag.apg.army.mil. Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday’s paper.

### Staff

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| APG Commander   | Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg |
| Public Affairs Officer  | George P. Mercer           |
| Editor  | Debi Horne                 |
| Editorial Assistant   | Marguerite Towson          |
| Contract Photojournalists                                       | Yvonne Johnson             |
|   | Meghan Bowen               |
| Contract Graphic Designer, Web site designer, Photo Technician. | Diane Burrier              |
| Web site  | www.apgnews.apg.army.mil   |



# ACS events for Month of the Child at APG

**VARIED DATES**  
**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION INFORMATION BOOTHS**  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
April 15, AA Post Exchange  
April 14, EA Shoppette  
April 20, AA Commissary

**FRIDAY**  
**APRIL 2**  
**OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE PARADE**  
Parade will be held 9 to 10 a.m. at the Aberdeen Child Development Center. For more information, call Diana Hayes, PACT coordinator, 410-278-4372.

**MONDAYS**  
**APRIL 5THRU APRIL 26**  
**PARENTING YOUNG CHILDREN CLASSES**  
This class is for parents with chil-

dren from birth to 5 years. Classes will be held 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the AA ACS building 2754. For more information, call Diana Hayes, PACT coordinator, 410-278-4372.

**MONDAY**  
**APRIL 5**  
**BREASTFEEDING AND RETURNING TO WORK**  
Class will be held 6 to 7:30 p.m. at AA ACS building 2754. For more information, call Diana Hayes, PACT coordinator, 410-278-4372.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 7**  
**MONEY MATTERS: PARENTS TEACHING KIDS**  
Class will be held 6 to 7:30 p.m. at AA ACS building 2754. For more information, call Arcelio Alleyne, Financial Readiness Program manager, 410-278-2450.

**THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 8**  
**MEDIA VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN**  
Class will be held 6 to 7:30 p.m. at EA ACS building E-4630. For more information, call Laura Reich, Family Advocacy Program prevention specialist, 410-278-7478.

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 10**  
**EGG HUNT XTRAVAGANZA**  
The hunt will be held 1 to 4 p.m. at the APG Post Chapel. Free tickets are available through AA and EA ACS. For more information, call Cheryl Harris, Relocation Assistance Program specialist, 410-278-7474.

**MONDAY**  
**APRIL 12**  
**STRENGTHENING YOUR**

**BLENDED FAMILY**  
Class will be held 6 to 8 p.m. at AA ACS building 2754. For more information, call Donna Mele, Family Advocacy Program specialist, 410-278-2464.

**MONDAYS**  
**APRIL 12THRU APRIL 26**  
**PARENTING YOUNG CHILDREN CLASSES**  
This class is for parents with children age birth to 5 years. Classes will be held 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the AA ACS building 2754. For more information, call Diana Hayes, PACT coordinator, 410-278-4372.

**TUESDAY**  
**APRIL 13**  
**EFMP PARENT INFORMATION EXCHANGE DINNER**  
Dinner will be held 6 to 8 p.m. at

AA ACS building 2754. For more information, call Reeshemah Bugg, Exceptional Family Member Program manager, 410-278-2420.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 14**  
**SHADES OF AUTISM**  
Class will be held 6 to 8 p.m. at AA ACS building 2754. For more information, call Reeshemah Bugg, Exceptional Family Member Program manager, 410-278-2420.

**THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 15**  
**MEDIA VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN**  
Class will be held 6 to 7:30 p.m. at AA ACS building 2754. For more information, call Laura Reich, Family Advocacy Program Prevention specialist 410-278-7478.

## Child

From front page

rain, Vaun Smith, Child and Youth Services program director, Diana Hayes, ACS Parents and Children Together coordinator, and McGruff accomplished the tying of the ceremonial child abuse prevention blue ribbon onto one of APG's police vehicles in the CYS parking lot.

"Children are our responsibility, and we want the entire APG community to unite to do all we can to keep them safe," Hayes said.

All caregivers at the center were given blue ribbon pins to wear for the month to support child abuse prevention.

"The blue ribbon is a great way for people to unite together and show their support of child abuse awareness," Hayes said.

"These parades are a great way to honor our children, encourage them in their growth and development, and celebrate the fact that they truly are our future," said Celestine Beckett, ACS director.

The Edgewood Area parade will be held 9 to 10 a.m., April 22, at building E-1901.



McGruff the crime dog tells children to "Just say no to drugs!" during the "Our Children are Our Future" parade held April 2 at the Aberdeen Child Development Center.




Child Care Provider Leslie Carpenter helps Brianna Walker, left, and Faith Warner lead the parade with one of the banners made by the children at the CDC.




Photo by MEGHAN BOWEN

Spc. Brian Nowicki, a military police officer, hands out rulers to Mason Bltchen, left, and Devon Churchill after the parade.



WE'VE STOOD WITH AMERICA'S  
**ARMED FORCES**  
THROUGH 66 YEARS OF CALL-UPS,  
MOBILIZATIONS, DEPLOYMENTS AND SEPARATIONS.



GEICO offers special programs for members of the military. We've served you since 1936 and we're standing by you now. Give us a call.

**1-800-MILITARY**

Military discounts not available in all states or in all GEICO companies. Government Employees Insurance Co. • GEICO General Insurance Co. • GEICO Indemnity Co. • GEICO Casualty Co. These companies are subsidiaries of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. GEICO auto insurance is not available in MA or NJ. GEICO, Washington, DC 20076. © 2002 GEICO 23752

# Cruise on in

to see our  
**new lower rates!**

Feel the breeze in your hair  
and the savings in your pocket.

**New & Used**  
**Boat Loans**  
as low as  
**6.00% APR\***

**Motorcycle Loans**  
as low as  
**6.50% APR\***

Official Credit Union of the  
  
**Proudly Serving All of Harford County**  
410-676-5700 • 1-800-440-4120  
[www.freedomfcu.org](http://www.freedomfcu.org)  
Park Avenue in Bel Air  
Fountain Green in Bel Air  
Edgewood Area APG



**Hanford County's Better Way to Bank**

\*APR - Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are effective 2/27/04 and are subject to change without notice. Rates are based on a review of each applicant's credit.









# Community Notes

## MOVIES

**ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3, CHILDREN \$1.50, building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard. To verify listing, call 410-272-7520. Free admissions have been discontinued.**



### EUROTRIP

**Friday, April 9, 7 p.m.**  
Starring: Scott Mechlowicz, Michelle Trachtenberg

When Scotty's German online pen pal suggests they meet, he initially freaks out. But then he discovers that she's gorgeous, and heads

out with three friends after graduation to meet her. As they travel across Europe, the four friends have comical misadventures. (Rated R)



### CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN

**Saturday, April 10, 7 p.m.**  
Starring: Lindsay Lohan, Adam Garcia

Lola is a newly displaced

teenager whose family has relocated from the trendy life of New York City to the urban sprawl of Dellwood, N.J. Out of place in the suburban town, Lola sets her sights on the lead in the school play while fantasizing about her favorite rock group and how her life should be.

When she learns that her favorite rock group is disbanding and is going to put on their final farewell concert in New York City, Lola pulls out all the stops to make it to the concert and meet the lead singer, Stu Wolff. (Rated PG)



### TWISTED

**Saturday, April 10, 9 p.m.**  
Starring: Ashley Judd, Samuel L. Jackson

Jessica, whose father was a serial killer, is a female police officer. While investigating a murder, she finds herself in the center of her own investigation, when her former lovers start dying around her at a furious pace. (Rated R)

### FRIDAY APRIL 9 SABBATH SERVICE

Kabbalat Shabbat service will begin 6:45 p.m. at the Harford Jewish Center, Havre de Grace. (No dessert provided.)

For more information, call 410-939-3170.

### FRIDAY AND SATURDAY APRIL 9 AND 10 EASTER MUSICAL

The Grace Assembly of God, located at 2303 Churchville Road, Bel Air, will hold an Easter Musical "What A Savior," 7:30 p.m.

The presentation features a choir, drama and multimedia. Communion will be served during each program.

For more information, call the church office at 410-879-5340.

### SATURDAY APRIL 10 SABBATH SERVICE

The Harford Jewish Center, Havre de Grace will conduct Sabbath services 9:30 a.m., with light Kiddush luncheon to follow.

For more information, call 410-939-3170.

### PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Word of Faith Outreach Ministry, Loflin Road, Aberdeen, will have its Annual "Harvest of Love" Prayer Breakfast 9 a.m. to noon. The proceeds will be used to support the Harvest of Love Mission House, which provides food and clothing to those in need.

A free-will offering will be

accepted for the breakfast.

For more information, call 443-243-4152.

### SUNDAY APRIL 11 ANNUAL VFW CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

Charlton-Miller VFW Post 6054, 206 Spesutia Road, Aberdeen, will sponsor its annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt, 2 p.m. For more information, call 410-272-3444.

### MONDAY APRIL 12 PASSOVER MEMORIAL (YIZKOR) SERVICES

The Harford Jewish Center, Havre de Grace, will conduct Yizkor/Memorial services 7 p.m. For more information, call 410-939-3170. Transportation may be available.

### TUESDAY APRIL 13 VA HEALTH CARE PROVIDER SEMINAR

The Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System, in cooperation with the Chesapeake Health Education Program, will host a VA Health Care Eligibility and Veterans Benefits Seminar, 8:30 a.m. at the Perry Point VA Medical Center, building 314.

The program is free and will provide an overview of VA programs and services to community social workers, counselors and other health care providers for assistance in referring veterans to VA facilities.

For more information, call

Sandra Pollard at 410-642-2411, extension 6096 or register online at [www.chap-inc.org/edu/course.asp?id=04-0001](http://www.chap-inc.org/edu/course.asp?id=04-0001).

### VFW MEETING

Charlton-Miller VFW Post 6054, 206 Spesutia Road, Aberdeen, will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. For more information, call 410-272-3444.

### SATURDAY APRIL 17 EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

The City of Aberdeen will sponsor an Earth Day celebration 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (rain date April 18), at Aberdeen Festival Park, located two blocks from Route 40 and West Bel Air Avenue.

Activities will feature a rock climbing wall, games made from recycled plastic lumber and recycled prizes, ocean "moon" bounce, exhibits by environmental groups and earth-friendly vendors, live music, food and tie dye booth. Students that bring their own 100 percent cotton T-shirt will be able to tie-dye their shirt for free.

Students are also encouraged to bring in and recycle an empty cereal box in exchange for three free game tokens.

For more information, call the City of Aberdeen Recycling Office at 410-297-4215.

### TUESDAY APRIL 20 VFW LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING

The Charlton-Miller VFW

Ladies Auxiliary, 206 Spesutia Road, Aberdeen, will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. For more information, call 410-272-3444.

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory will sponsor the annual National Commemoration of the Days of Remembrance, themed "For Justice and Humanity," 10 a.m., at the Post Theater.

Guest speaker will be Felix Kestinberg, a Holocaust survivor.

For more information, call the APG EO advisor at 410-278-1534.

FREE Special Report  
**Sell your house "As-Is" for a fair price on the date of your choice!**  
**We Want To Buy Your House!**  
· No Equity...or Behind in Payments is OK!  
· Get CASH in as little as 9 days! Call Now to request your FREE Report or get it NOW at the web site below  
*Your Maryland Real Estate Solution Providers*  
**HomeBuyers LLC**  
**Office: 410-977-1196 • Fax: 410-510-1600**  
[www.HomeBuyersMD.com](http://www.HomeBuyersMD.com)

**Easter Special**  
**FULL SERVICE OIL CHANGE**  
**\$4.00 OFF** WITH COUPON  
**\$5.00 OFF** Military & Federal, Civilian Employees, Police, Firefighter, with ID.  
Topping Off: Washer Solvent • Coolant • Transmission Fluid  
Checking: Brake Fluid • Battery • Air Filter • PCV Valve & Breathers • Wiper Blades • Check Air In Tires  
WASH • WAX • SERVICE • WE DO IT ALL  
**VAN BIBBER QUICK LUBE**  
1802 Walton Road • Edgewood, MD 21040  
**410-679-3975**

**The Solution... For Healthy, Beautiful Skin**  
One Hour Deep Tissue or Swedish Massage \$60  
½ Hour \$35  
European Facial  
1 ½ Hour \$60  
*Spring Special*  
Margarita Spa Pedicures Are Back!  
Now With Our New Massage Chair \$35.  
Spa Pedicures & Manicures \$49.  
Gift Certificates Available  
**NEW LOCATION!**  
**COUPE ST THOMAS LTD.**  
Hair Salon And Day Spa  
506 N. Adams Street • Havre de Grace • 410-939-1988  
Open Tuesday - Saturday, Tuesday & Thursday Evenings

# Harford LIVE!

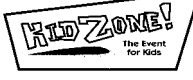
If you **sell products** or **provide services** to Harford County residents you need to be a part of Harford LIVE. **Promote your business and meet new customers** all weekend long. With over 300 exhibitors, make sure Harford County residents know YOUR name, not your competition's.



## HOME & GARDEN SHOW

AT RIPKEN STADIUM APRIL 24-25 • 10-5 PM

3 EVENTS IN ONE!



Sponsored by: The Aegis, Gemcraft Homes, WXCX 103.7 FM, Main St. Design, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford County, CASI

Exhibit space is limited. Call now to reserve.  
**410.688.4117 • 443.512.0265**

**YOU WILL NEVER FORGET.**  
**THE ALAMO**  
DENNIS QUAID • BILLY BOB THORNTON • JASON PATRIC • PATRICK WILSON  
*Sam Houston David Cockrell James Bowie William Travis*  
TOUCHSTONE PICTURES AND IMAGINE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A MARK JOHNSON PRODUCTION A JOHN LEE HANCOCK FILM DENNIS QUAID BILLY BOB THORNTON JASON PATRIC "THE ALAMO" PATRICK WILSON JORDI MOLLA EMILIO ECHEVARRIA CARLTON BURWELL DANIEL ORLANDO  
CASTING BY ERIC L. BEASON COSTUME DESIGNER MICHAEL CORENBLOTH EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DEAN SEMLER A.C.S. A.S.C. PRODUCED BY MARK JOHNSON RAY HOWARD WRITTEN BY LESLIE BOHEM AND STEPHEN GASHAN AND JOHN LEE HANCOCK DIRECTED BY JOHN LEE HANCOCK  
IMAGINE PICTURES PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SUSTAINED INTENSE BATTLE SEQUENCES  
alamo.movies.com Touchstone Pictures  
**STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 9 AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU**







# Army News

## Army focus area—Aviation unveils life without Comanche

**Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs**  
*Army News Service*

The Army's aviation fleet is undergoing a total overhaul, and the main priority is increasing survivability to protect the aircraft and the Soldiers it carries.

Aviators, crewmen, commanders and the technology community gathered to unfold the Army's aviation transformation plan during the Army Aviation Association of America Annual Convention in Nashville, Tenn., March 24 through 27.

By 2011, the Army will purchase 903 new aircraft, upgrade the current fleet to be more survivable, lethal and agile and work with the sister services to develop a Joint Multi-Role Helicopter.

During a four-and-a-half month study, members on the Army Aviation Task Force made more than 120 recommendations on how to turn aviation brigades into joint and expeditionary forces that are modular units of action. The total bill comes out to \$12.8 billion, the Pentagon official said.

"We're going to ask industry what weapon systems our potential adversaries may have, and we're going to be very innovative in how we deal with those threats," said Lt. Gen. Richard Cody, the Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations, G3.

Out of the recommendations came the idea to develop three new aircraft — a light utility helicopter, an armored reconnaissance helicopter and a cargo aircraft.

"It would be premature to talk about what the helicopters are going to look like. Right now we're in the capabilities phase," Cody said.

In a concerted effort Fort Rucker, Ala., Training and Doctrine Command and the Headquarters Department of the Army Staff will decide on the capabilities they want, and then let industry meet the niche, Cody said.

A more immediate addition to the aviation ranks will be unmanned aerial vehicles. The Army was given three I-GNAT UAVs as a congressional plus up and right now two are deployed to Iraq.

It's not just about I-GNAT, UAVs in general are a great contribution to the war fighter, the Pentagon official said. They perform reconnaissance and surveillance missions, and are becoming more and more important, the official added.

The Army will spend \$390 million toward

UAV acceleration. Currently in the Central Command area there are Ravens, which are tactical UAVs used at the platoon level. The smaller UAVs are referred to as Shadow and the larger ones, I-GNAT and Hunter, are used at division and brigade level.

The Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter Schoomaker advised the Aviation Task Force to improve survivability, increase deployability, optimize capabilities and shorten the logistics tail, the Pentagon official said.

Now the aviation field is following the infantry's example of the Stryker by creating a "common cockpit." Like the Stryker, which has 10 variants but same or similar parts, helicopters will share the same hardware and software.

In 2003, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Fort Campbell, Ky., implemented their version of "common cockpit" referred to as the Common Avionics Architecture System or CAAS.

By placing common hardware and software in three of the regiment's aircraft, training was simplified and the logistics demands on the unit were reduced, the G3 official said. The open avionics architecture also will make it easier to upgrade the aircraft with third-party vendor software.

The use of CAAS by the conventional Army is one initiative that will be adopted from the Special Operations community, Cody said.

"We always want the 160th to be the premier aviation force in the Army," Cody said. "We always want them well ahead of the conventional force."

Schoomaker, who has served with both conventional and Special Operations forces, challenges the aviation community to use Special Operations initiatives that can be sustained and resourced, Cody said.

In an interview at Fort Rucker, Schoomaker said that in the future there will be a closer relationship between what's occurring in Special Operations aviation and conventional aviation. Army Aviation in the conventional sense will move to another level, a higher level. At the same time it allows the 160th to move to an even higher-level capability, he added.

The need to purchase and upgrade the current fleet is the reason behind the Comanche termination, officials said.

"Had we not terminated the Comanche, I would be absolutely concerned," Cody said.



Courtesy of U.S. Army

Although terminated, RAH-66 Comanche helicopter technology will be harvested in other Army aviation programs.

"By 2011 we would have had to cut our aviation fleet by a sizable number."

At the termination of the Comanche, only two aircraft had been built, and \$6.9 billion spent since 1983, said the Pentagon official. If the Army had continued to fund the program it would cost \$14.6 billion more to purchase 121 aircraft by 2011 and up to \$2 billion more to add the survivability equipment that is being added to the rest of the Army's fleet, the official added.

However, the technology that was developed for the Comanche will not be lost, but will be harvested in other Army aviation programs.

"We needed a place where we could take the Comanche technology and ensure that it was retained," the Pentagon official said.

The goal is to work through a joint solution with the sister services and decide on a new rotorcraft by 2020 or 2025, the official added.

Transformation plans for the aviation field complement the combined arms fight, Cody said. If you take any one weapon system, a

Bradley, Abrams or UAV and put it up against an enemy, the enemy will learn to deal with it, the official said. It's a combination of all those weapon systems, the official added.

*(Editor's note: The Army's 17 immediate areas of focus include The Soldier; The Bench; Combat Training Centers/Battle Command Training Program; Leader Development and Education; Army Aviation; Current to Future Force; The Network; Active Component/Reserve Component Balance; Force Stabilization; Actionable Intelligence; Installations as Flagships; Authorities, Responsibilities, and Accountability; Resource Processes; Strategic Communications; Joint Expeditionary Army with a Campaign-quality Capability; and Logistics.*

*To view a brief synopsis of each area, visit The Way Ahead; Joint Expeditionary Army with a Campaign-quality Capability, [http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/read.php?story\\_id\\_key=5771](http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/read.php?story_id_key=5771).)*

## Am I covered?

You could be for as little as \$5 a month.<sup>1</sup>




If you live on base or rent, theft or damage to your belongings is generally not covered by the government or your landlord. **USAA Personal Property Insurance will protect your belongings for as little as \$5 a month.**

- Full replacement cost for your belongings, not a depreciated amount.
- Coverage limits starting at \$2,500. (Higher limits available at an additional cost.)
- Identity theft coverage up to \$5,000<sup>2</sup>, including protection against check forgery or unauthorized use of your ATM or credit cards.
- Lock replacement if the keys to your house or apartment are stolen, up to \$250.

**Call for a personalized quote.**

**1-877-694-1420**

or visit us at [usaa.com](http://usaa.com)  
and enter  keycode p5a002



**We know what it means to serve.®**

INSURANCE • BANKING • INVESTMENTS • MEMBER SERVICES

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its subsidiaries and affiliates. Renters Insurance is provided by United Services Automobile Association and USAA Casualty Insurance Company. The descriptions of coverages are necessarily brief and subject to provisions and exclusions that can only be exactly expressed in the policy contracts. Applicants for USAA property and casualty insurance must meet group membership eligibility requirements before purchasing for the first time. All applicants for property and casualty insurance are subject to underwriting. Some restrictions apply.

<sup>1</sup> \$5 a month based on monthly installment payment of premium on annual policy.

<sup>2</sup> Identity theft coverage not available in AK, CT, IL, LA, OR, and TX.

A3241-0304

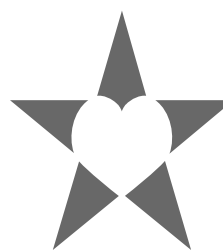
©2004 USAA. All rights reserved.

23754

## TRICARE Prime Coverage. Johns Hopkins Care.

*Add Johns Hopkins quality  
to your military health care benefits.*

- 17 convenient health care locations
- Complete, affordable benefits



**US FAMILY  
HEALTH PLAN**  
*Caring for our Uniformed Services Family*

**Call 1-800-808-7347  
for an enrollment packet**

[www.hopkinsmedicine.org/usfhp](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/usfhp)  
Enrollment application online



**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
COMMUNITY PHYSICIANS

12960



# Soldier dad leads school's PTA

Story and photo by  
**Yvonne Johnson**  
*APG News*

Like soldiering, parenting is a full time job that requires the employment of leadership skills. One Aberdeen Proving Ground parent employs his skills outside of his home as well. Maj. Mike Bush, executive officer of the U.S. Army Chemical Materiels Agency, is the president of the Edgewood Elementary School Parent, Teachers Association. As president he coordinates numerous fund-raising events that benefit the school.

During a student's art exhibit held at the school in March, while several PTA volunteers, including his wife, Tracy, the organization's secretary, served refreshments to visitors, Bush operated a souvenir sales table, offering pencils, tee shirts and lapel pins. He said his goal is to change the perception of the PTA.

"It's more than just a fundraising organization," Bush said. "It's about parents getting involved with their children's education."

He said the PTA recently held a family movie night at no charge for families to spend an evening of fun together.

"We charged for refreshments only," he said. "Hopefully we can have one monthly and parents will come see where their children are learning and get more involved."

Victory Bush also was on hand assisting her mother on the serving line.

"We're volunteering our free time but we're really just a family spending time together," she said.

With one child in college, a 9-year old in middle school and a 3-year old at home, Tracy said she and her husband have always been involved in their children's education and that they appreciate how the school focuses on the family.

"It's a great school. One of the better ones we've been involved with," she said.

As if soldiering and parenting don't keep him busy enough, Bush also is a volunteer firefighter with the Abingdon Volunteer Fire Department. He attends firefighting classes for his certification on Sundays along with his oldest daughter, Victory, a Harford Community College student training for her Emergency Medical Technician certification.

Treasurer Dawn Brown, the wife of Staff Sgt. James Brown, Headquarters Company, 143rd Ordnance Battalion, added that coming to the school after a long day on the job is tough, but worthwhile.

"You get to know the staff and teachers and working with the children is rewarding in itself," Brown said.



*Maj. Mike Bush, executive officer, U.S. Army Chemical Materiels Agency, and president of the Edgewood Middle School PTA, hands pencils and a pin souvenir to Ashley Weber, 9, a 4th-grade student, during the school's Art Show, March 19.*

## The APG Forum

### Commentary: Wake up and wonder



**Chaplain (Maj.) Joseph L. Di Gregorio**  
*USAGAPG*

Plato said, "philosophy begins in wonder." I would like to paraphrase that and say,

religion begins in wonder. As we grow older, our vision is clouded with the film of familiarity. Spiritual cataracts blind us to the beauty and wonder of the world and God.

Rachel Carson, author of "The Sea Around Us," found her sense of wonder had eroded as she proceeded to write her book. So she brought young children to the beach with her. She watched them play in the water, gather shells and see what familiarity had hidden from her eyes. She became again as a little child with the sense of amazement that revealed to her the beauty and life of the sea.

Sometimes we need a striking

event to awaken our slumbering sense of wonder.

Thomas Carlyle once wrote, "the person who cannot wonder, who does not habitually wonder and worship is but a pair of glasses behind which there are no eyes."

Einstein said very much the same, "He who can no longer pause to wonder and stand in awe is as good as dead. His eyes are closed."

King David urges us to seek the face of God continually. This demands of us a wide-eyed sense of wonder every day. This is what is behind the advice of the spiritual writers who ask us to practice the presence of God.

Why don't we do this? Why do we lose our childlike sense of wonder?

Because, we are too preoccupied with facts. We want canned theories and miles of data. We want everything measured. We insist on being in control to the point where we refuse to let anything surprise us. We can't even have a 'surprise party' anymore.

Certainly there is nothing wrong with getting the facts. Nor can we argue the value of a reasonable control of the environment. We are rightly angry at oil spills that kill millions of fish and ruin beaches. We are correct in fighting the sulphur emissions from

smokestacks that redden our eyes and rasp our throats. We are on target when we rail against cancer producing elements in our food and atmosphere.

At the same time we must go beyond the facts and let go of our fist at the culture switch.

We must learn how to see facts as an echo of God. A tree stands for more than lumber for a house. Snow exceeds its use for skiing. The world is a hint of God. Its back is to us. Its face is to God.

In Psalm 19 we hear, "The heavens tell us about the glory of God. Day pours forth speech. Night declares knowledge. Their VOICE goes

through all the earth."

Such wonder helps us to see the holiness in life. By wonder we gain respect for the real world so that we do not exploit it but enjoy it as it refers to God.

A miracle hits us over the head. "Wake up and wonder."

Thus we would move from loving communion with the world to a loving communion with God. Our world is a window onto the sacred. God loves this world, which echoes his love.

Stir up your sense of wonder and see the beauty that surrounds you.

God bless you.

## R Nissan. G Opening Celebration.

NISSAN is proud to Announce the Grand Opening of its newest dealership in Edgewood, Maryland.



**'04 Nissan Frontier**  
From \$11,775. 2 at this price.



**'04 Murano SE AWD**  
From \$25,932. 2 at this price.



**'04 Pathfinder SE 4x4**  
\$23,775 2 at this price.



**'04 Nissan Armada**  
From \$32,820. 2 at this price.



**'04 Altima 2.5 S**  
\$15,200 2 at this price.

**Formerly RT 40 Nissan. Because we bought our inventory from the previous dealer, we can offer once in a lifetime specials.**

**2801 Pulaski Hwy. Edgewood MD. 1/4 mile past Home Depot.**



Sale prices and payments exclude taxes, tags, freight, and \$99 processing fee (not required by law) and include all rebates and incentives, including college grad and military rebates where applicable on select models. All rebates and discounts retained by dealer. Special finance options are for qualified buyers. Offers on in stock vehicles only and are subject to prior sale. Dealer not responsible for typographical errors. Prices may include new 2003 leftover vehicles that have the full factory warranty.

**410-538-8500    Rnissan.com**



# ATC recovers stranded boats

**Susan Hagan, ATSS**  
ATC

As a result of last fall's Tropical Storm Isabel, four boats washed ashore on a restricted shoreline of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The storm surge that accompanied Isabel carried the boats from the Eastern Shore across the Chesapeake Bay to a shoreline of the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center.

While one boat ended up just off the water, the other three ended up almost half a mile inland. The boats were discovered a few days after the storm during damage surveys of the test center.

Unfortunately, the boats, which ranged in size from 20 to 35 feet, washed ashore into areas containing unexploded ordnance, better known as UXO, making them hard to retrieve. Despite the challenges, ATC was determined to remove the boats.

"We are boaters here (at ATC). We live in the community. We understand the plight of lost boats," said Ray Ward,

technical assistant to the commander.

In order to retrieve the boats, a UXO sweep had to be done of the area.

Over-flights and reconnaissance missions also took place to determine the safest, most effective way to get the boats out.

Over a period of almost four months, a team of government and contract personnel recovered three out of the four boats. The fourth, a 22-foot sailboat, was salvaged.

"The risk involved in recovering that particular boat was more than we would take on," Ward said.

Instead, all personal property and anything that could potentially cause an environmental problem were removed. All that remains is the hull.

The first boat to be retrieved, a 24-foot Sea Ray, was rigged by ATC personnel and then dragged by a private salvage company back into the water.

A 20-foot Sea Pro, the sec-



Photo courtesy of ATC  
A bridge boat pulls the 35-foot Sonic Wave back into the water. The boat became stranded along the shoreline used by the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center as a result of the storm surge accompanying Tropical Storm Isabel.

ond boat to be retrieved, was too far inland to be returned to the water. Instead, it was removed by using a crane equipped with a winch and then lifted onto the back of a flatbed truck and driven out.

The last boat to be retrieved, a 35-foot Sonic Wave, was dragged into a nearby

creek and then towed by a bridge boat back into the bay.

While the Sea Ray, suffered extensive storm damage, the other boats came away from their journey relatively unscathed.

Despite the damage, its owner drove the Sea Ray back to the marina.

The other boats are stored at ATC awaiting reimbursement from the insurance companies for their retrieval.

The cost of recovering and salvaging the boats was over \$30,000. Costs included manpower and UXO mitigation.

## Volunteers needed for Women Build with HHH



*Let's go ladies-- it's hammer time*

By day she's a psychotherapist, at night Carol A. Deel, safety coordinator for Harford Habitat for Humanity, shows other women how to handle a hammer and a hard hat at a safety-training meeting March 25 at Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church in Bel Air.



Harford county women watched a safety-training video to learn how they could help three Aberdeen families build their new home through the Harford Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program.

Story and photos by  
**Meghan Bowen**  
APG News

More than 30 women from across the Harford County area, including Aberdeen Proving Ground personnel from the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, attended the Harford Habitat for Humanity safety training meeting for new and returning volunteers to participate in Women Build, a program that strives to teach women how to build housing for those in need.

Future safety training meetings will be held on April 12, 7 p.m. in the Harford Habitat for Humanity Office on Hayes Street and May 10, 7 p.m. in Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church on Route 22.

For more information, call Project Coordinator Annabel Lusardi, 410-692-0292.

## Need money to pay your taxes?

## Would you like your refund money sooner?



**APGFCU**  
Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union

Open to everyone who lives or works in Harford or Cecil County  
(and parts of Middle River — click on the website for details).

**Apply 24 hours a day,  
7 days a week.**

**www.APGFCU.com**  
**410-272-4000 • 1-800-225-2555 (option #4)**

| Aberdeen | Abingdon | APG | Bel Air |  
| Edgewood | Elkton | Havre de Grace |



23901

## Need a Loan?



## Make no payments for 90 days!\*

Offer Good Until May 29th on all New & Used Auto Loans or refinanced auto loans.



**No Car  
Payment  
SWEEPSTAKES**

Apply for a car loan between March 1  
& May 29, 2004 and 1 LUCKY WINNER  
will win 6 months of Car Payments!

**APGFCU**  
Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union

Open to everyone who lives, works, worships, volunteers or attends school in Harford or Cecil County.

**APPLY 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**  
**Online at www.APGFCU.com**  
**Or call 410-272-4000 or 1-800-225-2555 (Option 4)**  
Aberdeen / Abingdon / APG / Bel Air / Edgewood / Elkton / Havre de Grace

\*Certain restrictions may apply. Interest will continue to accrue from date of loan disbursement. Existing APGFCU auto loans are not eligible for refinancing. **AUTO SWEEPSTAKES RULES AND REGULATIONS:** No purchase necessary to enter or win. To enter sweepstakes, Entrants must submit a completed auto loan application to APGFCU. All applications must be received within the Sweepstakes Period. One eligible Entrant ("Winner") will be selected and will have the option to receive their APGFCU car payment made for 6 consecutive months, valued at a maximum of \$600 per month or a cash prize of \$2,000. Winner will be determined by random drawing from all eligible entries received from Entrants held on or about June 1, 2004. Odds of winning will be determined solely by the number of eligible entries received. All decisions by APGFCU regarding the Sweepstakes are final and binding, unless otherwise dictated by applicable law. The winner need not be present to win. No employees or officers, or volunteers or family member or other persons associated with an employee or officer or volunteer of APGFCU shall be eligible to enter. To obtain a copy of the Winner's name, send a request along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: APGFCU Sweepstakes, ATTN: Compliance Office, P.O. Box 1176, Aberdeen, MD 21001. Requests must be received no later than July 1st, 2004.



22683



# RIF

*From front page*

those who are retiring yet wish to continue to work,” she said.

“We realize this is an emotionally stressful time, Hart said, “but no one can take better care of yourself or your career than you. Using these resources can make the best of what will be a difficult time.”

## Employment Readiness Program

Marilyn Howard, ACS employment program manager, said that in light of the present RIF, the ACS Employment Readiness Programs and the APG Self Help Job Information Center in building 2752, room 201, will be open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The center is equipped with seven computer stations, printers, FAX machines, copiers, phones, and job announcement information. Services are

available to all personnel seeking employment on APG and in the surrounding area.

“Through partnership with CPOC, several step-by-step guidebooks are available to assist job seekers in using a variety of Army automated programs to search for job openings, develop their resume, and transmit job applications,” Howard said.

Interviews will be held for operator, material handler, electrician, mechanical maintenance, and tool and die maker.

## Employee Assistance Program

Bill Sanchious said the EAP, which assists those with personal problems affecting job performance, is open to civilian employees, active-duty military, retirees, and their spouses. The EAP is planning individual stress management sessions, called brown bag lunches, during the lunch hour, for those having wishing to discuss their problems. Dates, times and

locations will be posted in future issues of the APG News.

“People may get depressed, have panic attacks, or suffer from overwhelming anxiety during this time,” Sanchious said. “For many, their existence is wrapped around their job and most haven’t had to deal with the job market in years.”

He said the best way to handle the many unknowns is to gather information.

“Focus on learning all you can about your options and resources,” he said. “Losing your place in the workforce can feel like losing your second family. It can make you feel very isolated. Don’t let that happen to you.”

For more information about VERA/VSIP, call Hart, 410-278-7144; about the ACS Employment Readiness Program, call Marilyn Howard, 410-278-9669 and the ASAP Employment Assistance Program, call Billy Sanchious, 410-278-5319.

# Managing stress the EAP way

## Part 1

To prepare and assist employees experiencing personal problems during the transition resulting from the Reduction in Force, the Employee Assistance Program stands ready to provide the appropriate help to enable employees to confidently pursue productive employment. EAP is open to civilian employees, active duty military, retirees and their family members.

### EAP services include:

- Initial assessment appointment
- Employment opportunity listings
- Resume writing workshops
- Individual resume assistance
- Stress management sessions (group/individual)
- Individual financial counseling
- EAP can link employees with:
  - Family service agencies
  - Human services departments

- Marriage counselors
- Alcohol/drug addiction programs
- Community support groups
- Physicians
- Psychologists
- Career counselors
- Financial/credit counselors
- Social workers
- Clergy
- 12-step groups

### Classes available on APG include:

- Stress management
  - Managing change
  - Suicide prevention
  - Violence in the workplace
  - Drug free workplace act
  - Supervisor and employee training
  - Substance abuse awareness training
  - Communication skills
  - Conflict management
  - Department of Transportation
  - \*There is no charge for these classes
- ### Referral types:
- #### Self-referral
- Employees or other eli-

gible individuals may call EAP to discuss their problem or make an appointment for service.

### Management referral

Supervisors can recommend that employees seek assistance through EAP.

### Union referral

If an employee belongs to a union, the shop steward can advise the employee to seek help from EAP.

### Medical referral

The occupational health physician or nurse can refer employees for assistance.

The EAP provides confidential assistance. For more information, contact Bill Sanchious at 410-278-5319 or e-mail William.Sanchious@usag.apg.army.mil; or call Cindy Scott at 410-278-3784 or e-mail her at Cynthia.scott@usag.apg.army.mil.

*(Editor’s note: See next week’s APG News for Part 2)*

- When preparing attachments for any electronic document to be used by contracting, preparer MUST use the following format: Normal, Times New Roman, 10.
- Do not use page breaks, section breaks, column brakes or special characters such as trademark signs, tm, (r), <, etc., in any document that will be used in a purchase order or contract.
- The contracting writing system used by contracting cannot format correctly if a font other than Normal, Times New Roman, 10 is used or if any special characters are used in the document.

# Funding

*From front page*

vehicles, lease, rental, and maintenance of equipment; full food services; environmental services; equipment-in-place, and other base operations services.

Shirley Kelly - shirley.a.kelly@us.army.mil, 410-278-0854

Technology Branch: ADP equipment; word processing equipment; software; general, specialized, and test equipment; instrumentation; supplies; and, ADP maintenance and services.

Ginny Corona - Ginny.corona@us.army.mil , 410-278-0883

The ACA APG DOC

Web site is located at: <http://www.apg.army.mil/aca/>. The fiscal year cutoff dates for submission of purchase requests are located at this site under “Announcements, News, and Notes.”

Purchase requests awarded subject to the availability of funds must be funded as soon as funds become available. The work must start and the contractors must be paid - this is not accomplished until the funds are certified.

When preparing purchase requests in PRWEB (formerly known as Acquiline):

- Do not use any dashes or spaces in the purchase request number.

essential for energy in a field environment. Unfortunately, oral bacteria use the starches and sugars in these foods to produce acids that cause tooth decay. Xylitol blocks these bacteria, interfering with their ability to “stick” to the teeth to produce damaging acids. Xylitol also increases saliva flow, which helps neutralize any acids and provides calcium to repair any weakened areas of the teeth.

Col. Robert Lutka, commander, Fort Benning Dental Activity, and Navy Capt. N. Blaine Cook, specialty leader for Operative Dentistry to U.S. Navy Surgeon General and the Chair of Operative Dentistry, Naval Postgraduate Dental School, are long-time advocates of xylitol.

“Xylitol has been used by diabetics for years as an alternative sweetener,”

Lutka said. “It’s a safe and effective way to keep Soldiers healthy while deployed.”

Due to the number of MREs already in stock, xylitol gum will not reach service members’ MREs immediately but will be included within 18 to 24 months.

“Don’t wait to start using xylitol gum,” dela Cruz said. “The gum can be purchased on the local economy and at commissaries, although the choice of flavors may be limited at smaller commissaries. Read the ingredients on the label and make sure that xylitol is the first ingredient. Chewing the gum at least five minutes is extremely important for maximum effectiveness.”

For more facts about xylitol, visit <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dhpw/oralfitness/OralFitnessResourcesFactSheets.aspx>

# MRE

*From page 6*

force behind the change in the gum supplied in MREs.

“We are convinced that this initiative will be one major solution to the dental readiness problem for the warfighters,” Inouye said.

“Ultimately, the warfighters are at high risk for dental disease. More importantly, the xylitol gum will potentially impact 2.68 million Active Component and Ready Reserve Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen while they are deployed in a field environment.”

“Deployed Soldiers are at greater risk for cavities because of starchy foods, sugary drinks, and infrequent tooth brushing,” dela Cruz said.

MREs contain carbohydrate-rich foods that are





# Morale, Welfare & Recreation

## Activities

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| MWR has a very exciting and entertaining events planned for APG.<br>Upcoming concerts include the Miller Lite | Army Concert Tour presenting Montgomery Gentry, and Blue County on July 17 and Shirley Caesar returns to APG for another | concert July 18.<br>To learn more, visit <a href="http://www.apg-mwr.com">http://www.apg-mwr.com</a> . |
|---|--|--|

### Methods of registration

Register for any MWR event by visiting the specific facility for the event, mailing in a registration form found in an MWR Program Brochure, visiting MWR Registration, building 3326, or visiting online at [www.apgmwr.com](http://www.apgmwr.com).

### “Bringin’ the House Down” Comedy Show

The APG community and the public are invited to see “Bringin’ the House Down” Comedy Show, 9 p.m., May 8, at the Post Theater. Doors open at 8 p.m. Featured comedians include Queen Aishah, Ricky Schackelford, Bro-Man 5th Flo, Kevin Anthony and Big Ben Kennedy. Tickets cost \$10 in advance for upper level, \$15 for lower level and \$20 at the door. A cash bar will be available. There will be an after

party following the show at the AA Recreation Center, building 3326. Permanent party and civilians with ticket stubs only can attend. Without a ticket stub, the cost to attend the after party is \$5. Tickets can be purchased at MWR Registration, building 3326, 410-278-4907/4011

For more information, call Earlene Allen at 410-278-3854 or [earlene.allen@usag.apg.army.mil](mailto:earlene.allen@usag.apg.army.mil).

### Link up 2 Golf - Beginner Golf School

The classes will consist of seven hours of instruction, three on-course playing experiences with an instructor, rental club usage, range balls, greens fee and cart fees during on-course experience sessions, and 15 free baskets of range balls for outside class practice time. There are two classes to choose from: Saturdays, May 1 through June 12, register by

April 23, 2 p.m. at Ruggles Golf Course and Fridays, May 19 to June 23, register by May 12. Class will begin 5:30 p.m. at Exton Golf Course.

Cost for E1-E5 is \$85; E6 to O3, \$99; O4 to O10 and Department of Defense civilians, \$109 and the public price is \$129.

### Creative Crafts with rubber stamps

Create beautifully embellished pages, cards, and gifts with rubber stamps, combining paper with coordinated stamp sets and brilliant ink. Classes will held 12 to 2 p.m., April 10, 13, and 15, at Russell Gym. Cost is \$25. Register by April 8.

### Highlights of the Jersey Shore

Take a trip to Wildwood, N.J., May 31 through June 4. The package includes four nights lodging in Wildwood, a visit to historic Cape May,

Dolphin Watch Sightseeing Cruise, and a trip to Atlantic City. Cost is \$299 for doubles and \$369 for singles. Register by April 23.

### Cinco de Mayo Day-Night Golf Tournament

Start the golf season off with this fun golf event, May 1, 5 p.m. tee off at Ruggles Golf Course. This is a golf tournament with a different twist. The first nine holes will be played before sun set, a regular Captain’s Choice scramble. At the turn, a full buffet, unlimited soda, and beer will be provided, followed by the last nine holes being played in total darkness.

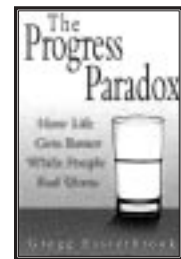
All night golf equipment is provided.

Cost is \$30 for patrons, \$45 for authorized value card members, and \$55 for all others. Register by April 21.

## LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

**Operating hours of the Aberdeen Area Library, building 3320, are 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday and 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Edgewood Area Library is open 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday. For more information, call 410-436-3589.**

**The following new books are available at the APG MWR libraries:**



***The Progress Paradox: how life gets better while people feel worse*** by Gregg Easterbrook

How is it that the quality of life in the United States has been improving for about a century, but opinion polls show that many people believe their parents had it better, and their children will have it worse?

***Making Family Web sites: fun and easy ways to share memories*** by Jenni Bidner

***Mere Discipleship: radical Christianity in a rebellious world*** by Lee C. Camp



***Corporate Warriors: the rise of the privatized military industry*** by P.W. Singer

***American Dynasty: aristocracy, fortune and the politics of deceit in the House of Bush*** by Kevin Phillips

The library’s Web site, [www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html](http://www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html), provides access to the library’s online catalog and also has a complete annotated listing of the library’s new material, as well as a list of available films on DVD.



Above, a hand-painted bowling ball of tropical fish sits on display in the APG Bowling Center.

Right, Pat Byrd, foreground, of Forest Hill and Savannah McGee deliver their best shot during the Harford County Women’s Bowling Association “Golden Decoy” seniors tourney March 20.



## Golden girls bowl for state tourney

Story and photos by  
**Yvonne Johnson**  
APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Bowling Center continued to serve the community when it hosted the Golden Decoy Ladies Senior Tournament March 20.

Led by Dave Brewner, bowling center manager, and Bonnie Kissner, president of the Harford County Women Bowlers Association, about two-dozen ladies from leagues around the county competed for the right to advance to the state tournament.

The event was also a HCWBA fundraiser, as participants purchased raffle tickets for the grand prize, a hand-painted bowling ball that resembled a fishbowl full of tropical fish.

Kissner, who coordinates six different tournaments, annually, said the HCWBA always looks forward to using the APG Bowling Center for its events.

“The facility is nice and clean and the staff is friendly,” Kissner said. “We’ve had league tournaments here before and they always go out of their way for us.”

“Dave Brewner and his staff are fabulous,” added Michele Bucey, first vice president. “I’ve run a lot of tournaments and bowling functions over 14 years. You couldn’t ask for better service. They are always accommodating and helpful.”

Brewner said he offered the facility during one of the association meetings that he attends regularly.

“Events like this are good for APG and

for the bowling community that so many of our customers are a part of,” Brewner said.

One regular APG customer involved with the tournament included Mary Jo Smith, president of the National Guard Thursday Night Mixed League.

A member of the Harford County Hall of Fame and former president of the state board of directors, Smith began the Thursday league in 1972. She said she is trying to organize a summer league and that the winter league, which will be played on Wednesdays and Thursdays, begins the week after Labor Day.

“Playing here has always been a big plus,” Smith said. “They know how to accommodate the bowler.”

## Lenten schedule

### Devotions

*Living Last Supper*

April 8, 7 a.m., AA Chapel

*Easter Sunrise service at Fanshaw Field*

April 11, 7 a.m.

*Easter services*

April 11, 10:15 a.m., AA Chapel; 9:15 a.m. at EA Chapel.

### Catholic community

*Daily mass*

EA and AA Chapel, 11:45 a.m.

*Weekend mass schedule*

AA Chapel

Saturday, 5 p.m.

Sunday, 8:45 a.m.

EA Chapel

Sunday, 10:45 a.m.

Confessions heard 30 minutes before mass; anytime by appointment

AA Chapel

Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m. every Wednesday,

EA Chapel

Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m. every Thursday,

### Holy Week

EA Chapel

*Solemn Holy Thursday service*, 7 p.m., April 8,

*Good Friday service*, 11:45 a.m., April 9,

AA Chapel

*Good Friday Stations of the Cross*, noon

*Solemn Holy Saturday service*, 7 p.m., April 10



## Chess champs

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Winners of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Chess Tournament pose with their plaques in the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center. From left, Terry Coffee, winner of the adult category; Andrew Hickox, 10, the 10-year old and under winner; and Steven Anthony, 13, who won the 12-and-over category. Hickox is the son of Alan Hickox, an employee with the Directorate of Community and Family Activities, and Anthony is the son of Steve Anthony, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command.

Coffee, a research mathematician with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, is the president of the Harford County Chess Club which meets 7 to 9:30 p.m., Thursdays, at the Parks and Recreation building on Franklin Street and Route 40 in Aberdeen.

## SCHOOL LIAISON/YOUTH EDUCATION

### COLLEGE RESOURCES

College resource books “2004-2005 College 411-A Student Guide To Higher Education and Financial Aid In Maryland” and “School Guide-Gateway To Your Future” are available in limited supply at the School Liaison/Youth Education office, building 2752, room 200. The school guide is recommended for anyone searching for 4- and 2-year colleges, business schools, nursing schools or military programs. Visit their Web site at [www.school-guides.com](http://www.school-guides.com).

For more information, call Ivan Mehosky at 410-278-2857.

### CHESS AS EDUCATION

Chess is a continuous exercise in problem solving. Each move challenges a player to analyze, evaluate and adjust or advance their plan. No other game is as rich in problem-solving exercises.

A vital part of education is learning problem solving skills. Success in life is largely based on a person’s ability to solve problems.

A chess program is being formed through the Youth Education Support Services program.

Modern educators recognize that chess should be part of every child’s education. Studies show that playing chess improves students’ abilities in many academic areas, such as, basic social skills—etiquette, courtesy, and patience; cre-

ativity—learning to think creatively to utilize and coordinate available resources; and logic—learning to use logic and sequential thinking.

In the next couple of weeks YESS will be hosting tournaments, encouraging elementary, middle and high school age children to play chess and keep a record of date and time played, opponent, outcome of the game and score. YESS will look to partner with the U.S. Chess Federation for support and advice.

Anyone interested should contact Ivan Mehosky at 410-278-2857. Volunteer coordinators are welcome.

### GUIDETO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Welcome To Harford County Public Schools Guide” is available at the School Liaison/Youth Education Office. Information contained in the guide includes: how to register a child; school attendance areas; student transportation; visiting schools; tardiness and absences; food and nutrition; emergency school closings; Harford County public schools; Harford County Public Schools’ vision, mission, goals, master plan; help for students with special needs; Board of Education; graduation requirements; additional requirements; exceptions to the regular high school program; and opening and closing times for HCPS. Call 410-278-2857 for a copy.





# Legally speaking

## Ethics at work—losing sight of gift-giving rules

OSJA

The Joint Ethics Regulations outlines rules for conduct of federal personnel, both Soldiers and civilian employees. The JER does not apply to contractor personnel working side by side with Soldiers and federal employees. A lack of awareness of the differing rights and obligations between federal personnel and everyone else can leave Soldiers and federal employees at risk of committing JER violations.

Boiled down to its simplest terms, the JER prohibits the acceptance of gifts from prohibited sources. Anyone doing business with the federal government is a prohibited source. A gift is anything of a value exceeding \$20 per occasion. Even if an individual item is valued below \$20, the cumulative value from any one prohibited source during any one year cannot exceed \$50. Applying this rule, an employee could accept from a prohibited source one \$19 plate as a wedding gift, but could not accept from a prohibited source two \$19 plates or four such plates in one year. Further, even if legal, appearance of impropriety should always be considered. The other side of the no acceptance of gifts rule is a rule prohibiting government personnel from soliciting gifts from prohibited sources at any time.

It is easy in today's work environment to lose sight of the gift rules. A given organization often functions with both contractors and federal employees/soldiers. Employees are taught from the first day of employment to treat everyone equally. Everyone becomes friends with their co-workers regardless of who pays them. In addition to the problem of loss of distinction between government and non-government personnel, this intermixing of people can easily create ethical difficulties for those to whom the

JER applies.

On a regular basis, fundraisers for picnics or parties and wedding/baby showers are held. People respond generously when someone becomes sick or dies. When fundraising, hosting showers, or responding to tragedies, employees must remain aware of the limits of the JER. While it may not create a problem with the JER to be generous with contractor personnel, generosity expressed by contractor personnel towards government personnel creates clear JER problems.

Contractor employees cannot be separated from their employer and are thus considered prohibited sources. As a result, a government employee who is a prospective bride could not accept two \$19 plates from two separate employees of the same contractor. The fact that contractor personnel are acting independently of their employer does not affect this conclusion. As the JER does not apply to them, they do nothing wrong when they are generous with their government co-workers. However, the generous act by the contractor employee places the recipient in a difficult position. The government employee is bound by the JER. The prospective mother or bride is bound by the JER to not accept gifts from prohibited sources. Likewise, the grieving co-worker cannot legally accept the gift of flowers sent from contractor personnel. While such gifts may amount to normal and otherwise acceptable social behavior, the JER does not provide justification for their acceptance.

The tendency to forget the distinction between government and non-government personnel also creates problems when raising funds. The "hat" is passed to buy a group gift for the prospective mother/bride or grieving co-worker. The whole

"team" receives the invitation to participate in fundraiser for the organization's party. Soliciting money or gifts from prohibited sources is also a JER violation. If the government employee includes contractor personnel in the list of those asked to participate, that government employee violates the JER. Wanting to treat everyone as a member of the same team, to enhance organization unity, is insufficient justification.

Both government and contractor employees should take this problem seriously. Violations of the JER subject the government employee to discipline and his/her organization to potential embarrassment. The JER requires the government employee not to accept gifts from prohibited sources. This can prove embarrassing for both the government employee and the well intending contractor employee.

The answer lies in government people remaining aware of JER limitations. It also lies in informing contractor employees of those limitations. In returning well intended gifts, the government employee can explain the reasons for the return. In turn, the contractor employee can communicate that any non-participation or failure to provide a gift, is to enable the government employee to avoid the awkward situation of having to return a well intended gift. Further, contractor awareness of the rules can avoid hurt feelings when contractor personnel are left off of the lists of those invited to those social situations where gifts are a normal practice or where donations are commonly made.

Agency ethics officials are available to answer any questions that may arise.

## Leasing a car or a residence-Do you know the law?

**Capt. Matthew Lund**

OSJA

Service members who have leased living quarters and/or automobiles routinely inquire about lease obligations, particularly just prior to transferring overseas. It is important for service members to understand lease obligations, particularly the differences between residential and automobile leases.

### Understanding residential leases

A lease is a binding contract. Most residential leases are provided by the landlord on a pre-printed form. Service members should take the lease home and review it before signing. If unsure about what part of the lease means, make an appointment and bring it to the Legal Assistance Office for review. Do not rely upon verbal promises from a landlord or real estate agent. Insist that important issues are put in writing

and added to the lease before signing.

In general, it is smart to have a military clause included in any residential lease signed by a service member. This clause should address what will happen if the service member receives extended temporary duty travel or permanent change of station orders, ETS release, or orders to move into government housing, prior to the completion of the term of the lease. Most legal assistance offices have available copies of suitable military clauses.

Some states, including Maryland, have a law that acts like a military clause for residential leases. Under Maryland law, a service member who signs a lease and then receives PCS orders, or TDY orders for a period of three months or more, may terminate the residential lease. However, the service member must give written notice and proof of assignment to the land-

lord. The service member will not be held liable for more than 30 days' rent after giving written notice and proof of assignment to his or her landlord.

### Leasing automobiles

Automobile leases are more problematic for transferring service members, particularly if the transfer is overseas.

Most automobile leases do not contain a military transfer clause. There is no Maryland law that allows a service member to terminate an automobile lease early, should the service member receive PCS orders to transfer prior to the expiration of the lease term.

Auto leases do, however, usually contain a clause forbidding the service member from taking the vehicle permanently out of a certain geographical area. Should a service member leave the leased vehicle and transfer to their overseas post, they will usually be hit

with hefty early termination fees. Some auto leases, rather than requiring an early termination fee, instead require service members who terminate the lease early to pay the entire remaining amount of the lease. Full payment is required even if the service member will not have the benefit of the vehicle during part of the lease period.

One option for service members wishing to lease is to insist that a military clause be added to the lease.

The decision to lease an automobile while serving in the military should be thoroughly considered before the service member signs a contract.

The best course of action is to understand, and perhaps modify any lease prior to signing it.

For more information on residential and auto leases, call the Legal Assistance Office at 410-278-1583/1584.

### Law Day observance set for April 29

Aberdeen Proving Ground will observe Law Day with a luncheon at Top of the Bay, 11:30 a.m., April 29. The 2004 theme is "To Win Equality by Law: Brown vs. Board of Education at 50."

The guest speaker is Dr. Walter J. Leonard, scholar, professor, author and attorney.

The cost of the luncheon is \$12 and payment is due by April 20. Checks must be made payable to Susan G. Grendahl. To drop off a payment or for more information, see Nora Farrell, Legal Assistant in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate in building 310, Wing 1 or call 410-278-1107.

## DoD announces criteria for global war on terrorism medals

DoD

The Defense Department announced Feb. 26 the final approval of the Global War on Terrorism Medals. These medals recognize the significant contributions members of the armed forces bring to bear in combating terrorism in all forms throughout the world — for both current and future operations.

Presidential Executive Order 13289 previously authorized the medals, which come in expeditionary and service versions. The expeditionary medal is for those who deploy to designated combat areas, and the service medal is for those who serve in support of operations to combat terrorism.

Service members authorized the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal must have deployed overseas for service in the Global War on Terrorism operations on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and to a future date to be determined by the secretary of defense. Initial award of the expeditionary medal is limited to personnel deployed abroad in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The area of eligibility encompasses the United States Central Command area (less the lower Horn of Africa); Middle East; eastern Turkey; Philippines; Diego Garcia; and all air spaces above the land and adjacent water areas.

Each combatant commander has the authority to approve award of the expeditionary medal for personnel deployed within their theater of operation. Under no circumstances are personnel in the

United States eligible for the expeditionary medal.

Service members must be assigned, attached or mobilized to a unit participating in designated operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in the area of eligibility, or meet one of the following criteria:

- Be engaged in actual combat against the enemy and under circumstances involving grave danger of death or serious bodily injury from enemy action, regardless of time in the area of eligibility;

- While participating in the designated operation, regardless of time, be killed, wounded or injured requiring medical evacuation from the area of eligibility; or

- Be regularly assigned aircrew member flying sorties into, out of, within, or over the area of eligibility in direct support of Operations Enduring Freedom and/or Iraqi Freedom. Each day that one or more sorties are flown in accordance with these criteria shall count as one day toward the 30 or 60-day requirement.

Individuals authorized the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal must have participated in or served in support of Global War on Terrorism operations on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and to a future date to be determined by the secretary of defense. Initial award of the service medal will be limited to airport security operations (from Sept. 27, 2001, until May 31, 2002) and to service members who support Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Iraqi Freedom. Each combatant commander has the authority to approve award of the

service medal for units and personnel deployed to their theater of operations.

Service members must be assigned, attached or mobilized to a unit participating in or serving in support of designated operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days, or meet one of the following criteria:

- Be engaged in actual combat against the enemy and under circumstances involving grave danger of death or serious bodily injury from enemy action, regardless of time in the area of eligibility.

- While participating in the designated operation, regardless of time, be killed, wounded or injured requiring medical evacuation from the area of eligibility.

Battle Stars for the expeditionary and service medal, if warranted, may be applicable for personnel who were engaged in actual combat against the enemy and under circumstances involving grave danger of death or serious bodily injury from enemy action. Only a combatant commander can initiate a request for a battle star. The chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff is the approving authority for battle stars.

Only one award of the expeditionary medal and service medal may be authorized for any individual; therefore, no service stars are prescribed. Personnel may receive both the expeditionary medal and service medal if they meet the requirements of both awards; however, the qualifying period of service used to establish eligibility for one award cannot be used to justify eligibility for the other.

The Global War on

Terrorism Expeditionary Medal will be positioned above the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal in precedence; both shall directly follow the Kosovo Campaign Medal.

Each military department will prescribe appropriate reg-

ulations for processing awarding and wearing of the medals and ribbons for their service members, to include application procedures for veterans, retirees, and next-of-kin.

In consideration of new military roles in a post-Sept. 11 environment, the depart-

ment developed these awards for military members to provide flexible and tangible recognition for those serving in the current war against terrorism, a war that spans the globe and includes many diverse campaigns.

### PET OF THE WEEK



Photo by MEGHAN BOWEN

*Need a lil' Chit-Chat in your life?*

*Chit-Chat, a 9-pound neutered male American Shorthair, black with white whiskers, chest, belly, and socked paws, is between 2- and 3-years old and has had all shots. Chit-chat is a very friendly, talkative feline. To adopt Chit-Chat, visit the APG Veterinary Treatment Facility, building 2479 on Oakington Street across from the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 410-278-3911.*



# Veterans' voices

## Local Korean War vets receive service medal 50 years later

Story and photo by  
**Meghan Bowen**  
APG News

Five Korean War veterans received service medals from the Republic of Korea at the Charlton-Miller VFW Post 6054 in Aberdeen, where they are members, on March 27 more than 50 years after the armistice that ended the fighting.

"On their DD 214 discharge forms they were awarded, but never received, the service medals," said retired Master Sgt. Dave Mial, former administrator to Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

Mial was the reason why fellow VFW Comrade's Alberto L. Brown Sr., Frank D. Brown, Willie A. Cheatham, John W. DeBow and Sam Williams Jr. were honored with an actual medal to wear for their service.

Mial, also a VFW Post Service Officer, found out about the service medals after reading a 2003 VFW Magazine article, and then researched how to acquire the medals for his comrade veterans.

The U.S. Air Force, who was designated the lead agency to receive and distribute the medals, had not contacted the veterans in VFW Post 6054. So Mial contacted Randolph Air Force Base in Texas and they sent him an eligibility letter, which required a copy of the Korean War vets' DD Form 214. Mial sent in the needed information and a few weeks later he received their service medals.

Each of the five remaining Korean War veterans from VFW Post 6054 remembered the exact month and year they started and finished their tour of duty overseas, a service finally acknowledged with the medal.

Ronald Dickens, VFW senior vice commander

for the State of Maryland, presented the medals to the veterans.

After receiving his medal, Brown said, "It was an honor. It's good to know we're still remembered."

Even though they had not filed the paperwork for the medals, Mial remembered five other Korean War Vets from VFW Post 6054 who had passed away over the previous year.

### History of the medal

According to the Korean War Project Web site, [www.koreanwar.org](http://www.koreanwar.org), the service medal was originally offered to the United Nations forces serving in Korea by the ROK in 1951. But at that time, U.S. law prohibited the U.S. military from wearing medals issued by foreign governments.

The Web site also stated that Congress did change that law in 1954, but by then most U.S. service members eligible for the medal had returned home.

In 1998, the ROK offered the service medals again and in 1999, the Defense Department approved acceptance and wear of the medal.

Approximately 1.8 million U.S. Korean War veterans who served between the outbreak of hostilities on June 25, 1950 and the armistice on July 27, 1953, who had a permanent assignment or temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days, and performed their duty within the territorial limits of Korea, including immediately adjacent waters or aerial flight over the area while providing support or actual combat operations were eligible to receive the medal.

For more information on how to apply for the Korean War Service medal, call the Air Force Personnel Center at 1-800-558-1404.



Comrade Ronald Dickens, senior vice commander of the State of Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars, pins the Korean War Service Medal onto Comrade John W. DeBow of VFW Post 6054, who served in the conflict from July 4, 1950 to Nov. 21, 1951.

## Study of the financial impact of retired military service personnel on the economy of the state

**Retired U.S. Navy Lt. Ed. Kreiner**  
Military Officers Association of America

To enhance Maryland's income tax base, by attracting more retired military service members to select Maryland as a permanent retirement home, more than 26 veterans organizations supported legislation to phase in the exemption of military retired pay from state and local income taxes over a 5-year period.

Maryland's existing budget deficit caused the governor and key legislators to opt for a state-sanctioned Task Force to perform a detailed analysis of the potential benefits and impact of exempting military retired pay from Maryland state and local taxes.

SB 480 directed the Task Force to seek answers to questions that are detailed in the report. In the course of its deliberations, the Task Force determined that:

- There are approximately 512,000 veterans in Maryland, of which 42,577 are Retired Military Service Personnel (RMSP). Enlisted retirees comprise 71 percent of RMSP.
- The central theme of those testifying at a Public

Hearing on Oct. 16, 2003, was that the decision to retire in Maryland or elsewhere will likely be a decision based in large measure on the taxation of military pay.

- In tax year 2000, the average income reported by RMSP was \$83,435, of which \$18,266 was attributable to military retired pay. The remaining \$64,869 was derived from second career employment and other sources of income.

- RMSP health care costs to the state are negligible because the majority is covered by the Department of Defense TRICARE program.

- RMSP generate countless jobs for physicians, hospitals, and other providers. For example, in Fiscal Year 2002, the DoD contracted with and paid the Johns Hopkins University, Uniformed Services Family Health Plan, more than \$89 million to provide health care to the families of active duty service members, retirees, and their families and survivors. Data on the DoD expenditures for RMSP under the TRICARE program was unavailable, but is estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

- RMSP pay significant taxes on real estate, purchases of taxable goods, gasoline, etc. For example, in 2000, RMSP paid \$59,119,277 in real estate taxes and more than \$24,799.18 in sales revenue.

- RMSP place little or no demands on the social infrastructure.

- Twenty-three states exempt all military retired pay from income tax, including nine states that have no personal income tax.

- All of the Mid-Atlantic states provide better tax relief to RMSP than Maryland. While existing Maryland law provides an income deduction for enlisted retirees age 55 and older, the deduction is reduced for Adjusted Gross Income in excess of \$17,500 and eliminated when AGI reaches or exceeds \$22,500.

- The RMSP population will peak in 2010, after which the population will continue to decline for the foreseeable future. Without providing better incentives, Maryland will not be able to rely on the increased numbers of RMSP it needs to sustain its economic development.

### SATURDAY AND SUNDAY JUNE 5 AND 6 NATIVE AMERICANS HONORING VETERANS

The Perry Point Veteran's Administration Equal Opportunity Native American Program will host Eagles Nest 2004, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fifth annual Native American Festival honoring veterans will be held at the Perry Point VA Medical Center, front gate picnic area, Perry Point. The event is free and open to the public. Activities include traditional Native American drums and dancers, vendors selling artwork, jewelry, T-shirts, buffalo burgers, other foods and more. There will also be a visitation to the Nursing Home Care Units, 10 a.m., June 6.

Guests include Host Drum, Little Horse Singers; Guest Drum, Bum Kneezee; Head Man Dancer, Terry Strong Heart; Head Lady Dancer, Hanna Jacobs; Emcee, Scott Tiny Bear; flute performances; native and contemporary foods and more.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Linda Silver Otter, 410-885-2800, Al Milliner, 443-350-3230, or Debbie Rosenkrans, 410-642-1005.

## Thrift Shop ready for spring

Story and photos by  
**Yvonne Johnson**  
APG News

From ladies blouses, to household knick-knacks, the Aberdeen Area Thrift Shop is bursting with the colors of spring, just in time for the Easter

holiday.

The shop offers a variety of baskets and bunnies for young Easter egg hunters, and a number of colorful blouses, skirts and dresses to highlight the spring wardrobe.

Other items include kitchenware, furniture, electronics, baby items, toys, lawn care equipment, and military uniforms.

A library of hardcover and paperback novels includes authors like John Grisham, Danielle Steele, Tom Clancy

and Sidney Sheldon.

The shop is open Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 410-278-8572.



David Haberkorn, 8, checks out an Easter egg display in the Aberdeen Area Thrift Shop, building 2458. Colorful ladies blouses and a library of hard and soft-cover books are just some of the items awaiting bargain hunters.







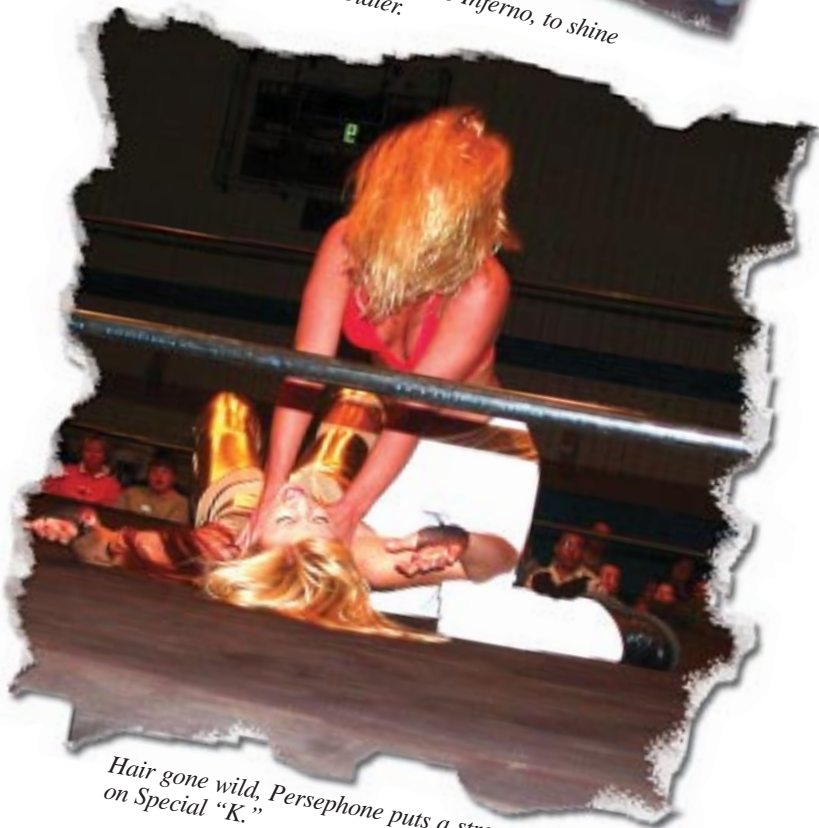
Todd Johnson takes Shawn Alexander for a ride.



Norman Smiley uses the shirt from his opponent, Disco Inferno, to shine the boots of an Aberdeen Proving Ground Soldier.



An enraged Viscera looks to get back at The Barbarian with the same table he broke after being body slammed.



Hair gone wild, Persephone puts a strangle hold on Special "K."



Todd Johnson, right, gets ready to deliver a blow to an out-on-the-ropes Shawn Alexander.



Upended by Norman Smiley, Disco Inferno braces for impact.



The Barbarian, left, seems to give up when cornered by Viscera.



Norman Smiley and cadets from the Military Youth Corps Free State ChalleNGe Academy taunt Disco Inferno from the bleachers.

# WRESTLING RUMBLES AT APG

Story and photos by  
**Yvonne Johnson**  
APG News

They came, they saw, they rumbled. Wrestlers from the International Confederation of Wrestling put on quite a show for wrestling fans as they tussled in and out of the ring during the Superstars of Wrestling show at the Aberdeen Area Athletic Center March 20.

With every body slam to the mat or blow to the head, the fans, who included cadets from the Maryland Army National Guard's Freestate

ChalleNGe Academy, howled their approval.

Headliners Norman Smiley and Disco Inferno led the program of ICW superstars who included The Barbarian versus the fan favorite, Viscera; George South Jr. versus Jason King; Shawn Alexander versus Todd Johnson; a tag team match of The Executioners 1 and 2 versus Mike Lee and Joey Silvia; and a ladies match between Persephone and Special "K".

The evening included autograph signings, souvenir and refreshment sales, and a chance for fans to pose for a photograph with Viscera,

the 600-pound former World Wrestling Entertainment Hardcore champion.

After watching the evenings' battles, that included brawls outside the ring and into the stands, many fans commented that they enjoyed the evening's performances.

"I'm a longtime fan of Viscera and Special "K," said Pvt. Anthony Comeau, Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion, as he and his friend, Pvt. Jonathan Valvec enjoyed the show from ringside. "When I heard they were coming I said I had to make it here," Comeau said.

"I'm having a great time. My money's on Viscera," added Valvec.

"This was great. It's my first time seeing them live," said Pfc. Jerimiah Turner, U.S. Marine Corps Detachment, after posing for a photo with Special "K."

The road show's manager, Henry Hubbard, said the wrestlers travel nationwide putting on more than 30 shows a year.

"We get a kick out of performing for the military," Hubbard said. "Wherever we go, we make sure the fans have a good time."